

Congressman Paul A. Gosar
Floor Speech
Gosar Amendment #093
CJS Appropriations Act for FY 15

Mr. Chairman (or Madam Chair), I have an amendment at the desk.

[The Clerk will report]

[Amendment XX offered by Dr. Gosar of Arizona—(reads amendment)]

Mr. Chairman (or Madam Chair),

I rise today to offer an amendment which seeks to bolster a critical law enforcement program within in the Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act.

That program is the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program, also known as **Byrne-JAG**.

My amendment is fully paid for by cutting unnecessary spending elsewhere in the bill. Specifically, the Office of Justice Programs Research, Evaluation, and Statistics budget was increased by \$4.25 million from FY 14 levels. This amendment takes that increase and redirects those funds to the Byrne-JAG grant program to bolster law enforcement nationwide.

As we all know, one of the federal government's core responsibilities is to secure the peace.

The government establishes a national guard and a standing military for security purposes, but it can also assist local law enforcement with funding, critical information, and joint efforts between local, state, and federal officials, or any of these combined.

My home state of Arizona in particular has some serious issues and needs when it comes to law enforcement.

Being that Arizona shares an international border with Mexico, we have seen increasing amounts of illegal trafficking operations—from noncitizens to illicit drugs to illegal firearms.

I believe the federal government, in conjunction with state and local law enforcement, has a duty to uphold the rule of law and to combat these activities in the best ways possible.

My State of Arizona uses multi-jurisdictional task forces (MJTFs).

It also funds probation-based drug monitoring programs and other probation-related services, including drug courts, pro bono defense services, and other metrics-based programs aimed at curbing drug abuse.

In the 2010 fiscal year, Byrne-JAG contributed to 58 worthwhile Arizona programs. This local investment assisted Arizona's 16 multi-jurisdictional drug task forces with arresting 6,629 drug offenders.

Those same drug task forces seized over 847,000 grams of cocaine, nearly 50,000 grams of heroin, more than 200,000 grams of methamphetamine, over 300,000 pounds of marijuana, and more than 40,000 marijuana plants.

Finally, and perhaps most satisfyingly, the combined efforts of these drug task forces and tandem prosecution resulted in over \$23 million in forfeited assets.

These Byrne-JAG programs nationwide have proven themselves worthy of sustained federal resources.

As a member of the Congressional Law Enforcement Caucus, I will strive to keep American homes and communities safe by providing important resources to worthwhile law enforcement programs that protect local communities.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman (or Madam Chair), I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of my commonsense amendment and with that, I yield back.